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THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE

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The Voice of the Turtle

NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ANCIENT COIN CLUB
OF AMERICA

VOL. V, No. 11

NOVEMBER, 1966

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COVER COIN: REVERSE: 16 LITRA AR
COIN OF QUEEN PHILISTA (BC 274-
216). NIKE DRIVING QUADRIGA
SLOWLY. BMC, SICILY, 355-58.

Photo courtesy of Herb Brabandt

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ANCIENT BRONZES OF THE HOLY LAND

1. **ORTHOSIA.** 1st centuries A.D. or B.C. Tyche hd.
Rv. Dionysos Pogon (or Chronos) in chariot drawn by
two panthers. 18mm. F \$4.00, VF\$ 8.00
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tarte; inside, baetyl with horns. 24mm. F-VF 12.00
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prow. 22mm. VG 3.75
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with foot on prow. 26mm. G \$2.00, VG-F \$4.00, F 7.00
11. _____116/117 A.D. Heads of Dioscuri. 24mm
Poor \$2.00, F-VF 8.00
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13. _____Busts of Dioscuri r. 24mm. F 5.00
14. _____Marcus Aurelius. Busts of Dioscuri r. 24mm.
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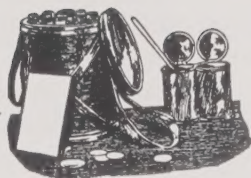
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From the Editor's Desk



Professor Jones, in describing the state of our knowledge of Roman coins insofar as classification was concerned, used the phrase "ripe Maturity." In doing so he intentionally was contrasting our state of knowledge concerning the so-called "Greek Imperials" about which all too little is known.

This subject came to mind again as the result of two recent occurrences. A small group of Bithynian coins was acquired directly from the site of that former province. Six of these coins emanated from the city of Prusias ad Hypium. Four of the coins were unpublished.

This incidental event led to a casual scrutiny of Professor Bellinger's monograph on the excavation coins found at Troy. Here, where a site was exhaustively excavated, one presumes that the separate issues of coins found represent to some degree of completeness the total number of issues of the town, in this case the Graeco-Roman town of Illium. Reference back to the standard texts, the British Museum Catalogue, Mionnet, the SNG, etc. brings to light the fact that less than half of the separate issues found in the excavations were previously recorded.

Without further study of the excavation coins, as opposed to the chance coins in various collections recorded in major catalogues, it is impossible to estimate accurately the percentage of various cities' issues which are represented by those catalogues. It is evident however, that only a small number of the total issues of the Roman East are catalogued, despite the immense number of individual coins which are already recorded.

Once Rome found herself interjected into the affairs of the Greek cities of the East, early in the second century BC, her involvement there grew until the East, like the West, became a dominion of the Roman Empire. Unlike in the West, Rome found a people whose cultural antecedents went far into the past, whose customs and laws had existed for centuries. Always pragmatic in her approach to administration, the cities in the East continued many of their traditional ways under Roman rule. This brought about a syncretism of

Greek and Roman culture — and this amalgamation was to survive until 1453.

Many of the secrets of Roman and Byzantine history lie in the East. Certainly the numismatic material, so much more varied than that of the "official" issues, has much to teach us. Unfortunately, access to that material is rendered most difficult. Of the 500 and more minting sites, only a few have been excavated in any way, and some of these hardly have been dug in the sense of modern archaeological method. Surface and chance finds of individual coins, and even of hoards, are dispersed to dealers and merchants with no record made of the coins, its provenance or, if a hoard, of the coins found in the hoard.

So there is imposed upon individual collectors the obligation to do more than acquire and casually tuck away an ancient coin. The desire to own any ancient artifact or document should be accompanied by a desire to have that artifact fully attributed. If, in the process of attribution, it becomes evident that new material is at hand, publication becomes obligatory.

Despite appeals often made here to bring unpublished coins to the attention of the entire numismatic community, few have come forth. This is not a problem of the *Turtle* alone, as a quick scrutiny of the *Numismatic Chronicle* and the *ANS Museum Notes* will quickly indicate. Those coins which are published are those which come under the purview of a numismatic organization or are chanced upon by a dedicated numismatist.

Those of us who claim to be willing to share knowledge and exchange information are going to have to prove ourselves in the coming years by carefully reworking our coins and seeing to it that those we have that are unpublished are brought to the attention of all numismatists.

Quite possibly, this endeavor might also enhance our own knowledge and appreciation of those coins which now reside in our cabinets.

JOHN E. HARTMANN, *Editor*

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COIN CLIPPING IN THE REIGN OF EDWARD I

By ANDY SINGER

"There are few more interesting issues in the study of numismatics than the evidences of the constant state of warfare between the two contending parties — the combined attack of the forgers, the clippers, and the dishonest moneyers on the one side, against the often ingenious defense of the crown on the other."¹

The privilege of minting coins had been regarded as a royal monopoly in England even before the Norman Conquest. The king controlled all the mints and the dies for coinage, as well as the trade in precious metals. Any person desiring to exchange bullion for coin had to do so at a royal exchange, which was usually associated with one of the mints, where a seigniorage was levied on behalf of the king. A set standard of weight and purity — twenty-two and one-half grains of .925 fine silver — had been almost constantly maintained in the silver penny, the only denomination issued by the English mints. An actual pennyweight contained twenty-four grains of pure silver, and the reduction of one and one-half grains, plus the addition of eighteen pennyweight per pound (there are 240 dwt. per pound troy) of alloy, allowed the expenses of minting to be met. The standard fineness of eleven ounces and two pennyweight pure silver per pound gave the "sterling" coins of English unprecedented popularity and wide acceptance and circulation.

The royal control of the coinage also called for maintaining its integrity. Although the counterfeiters and dishonest moneyers made their marks upon the coinage, the criminal activities of the clippers produced far more serious effects. The act of clipping a coin could be accomplished merely by removing a sliver of silver from the edge of a coin; the clippings were eventually exchanged for whole money. One sliver would hardly be missed, but if a coin was repeatedly subjected to the practice, it became quite noticeable. When a pound of pennies (240) containing a considerable number of clipped coins was weighed, the deficiency would fall far below the six pennyweight allowed for depreciation.³

Since pennies were the sole denomination, and transactions often involved fractions of pennies, the need for small change

1. W. J. Andrew, "A Numismatic History of the Reign of Stephen," in *The British Numismatic Journal*, v. VIII (1911), p. 127.

2. Richard FitzNeale, *Dialogus de Scaccario*, trans. Charles Johnson (New York: Oxford University Press, 1950), pp. xl-xli., 10, 40-43.

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 40-43.

was filled by cutting the pennies into halves and quarters. This process, limited to the mints, afforded the clipper an opportunity to remove slivers of silver from the one or two straight edges of the halfpenny or farthing, and it would be much less detectable than removing it from the circular edge of the coin. Eventually the clippers became so bold as to cut the coins themselves, following the axes of the crosses that made up the reverse design, just as they did at the mint, only the clippers made sure to retain plenty of silver for themselves.⁴

The major theme of this paper is an examination of coin clipping during the reign of Edward I. The associated problems include the steps taken by the crown to bring the offenders to justice, to prevent further clipping, and to restore the state of the coinage to coincide with previous high standards. The background information takes special note of relative events regarding clipping and coinage reform during the previous reign of Henry III.

The term "sole currency" is first encountered in chronicles dating to the reign of Henry II; it was employed to describe the new coinage brought about by the monetary reform of 1157. This new issue — termed the Tealby type, from a large hoards discovered at that place in 1807 — replaced the entirely corrupt coinage of Stephen's reign. A "sole currency" called for the exclusion of all foreign and debased coin and for the use of but one type of coin within England.⁵

The Tealby coinage, noted for its ugly appearance, poor craftsmanship, and careless execution, lasted only until 1180, when Henry II replaced it with a more satisfactory issue. A foreign goldsmith, Philip Aimer of Tours, was brought to England to design the new coinage; however, "the design does him little credit as an ill-modeled portrait is backed by a type which can only be recommended as being suitable for division into halves and quarters for small change." This issue, the "short-Cross" coinage, as contrasted with the one that followed it, began in 1180 and lasted until 1247. During the whole period of issuance, which covered the reigns of four kings, the design never underwent a marked change, nor did the legend deviate from "HENRICVS REX," despite the fact that it was struck by Richard I and John, in addition to Henry II and III.⁶

Philip Aimer fell quickly from favor, and there was a marked decline in the style and artistic merit of the short-

4. Andrew, *op.cit.*, p. 132

5. FitzNeale, *op.cit.*, pp. 9-10; George C. Brooke, *English Coins* (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1950), p. 102.

6. Brook, *op.cit.*, pp. 103-104.

cross penny, with the exception of the brief revival brought about by John's *mutatio monetae* in 1205. The very design of the coin proved it quite amenable to clipping: the poor style and lack of any part of the design to allow the determination of just how badly a coin might be clipped did nothing but encourage the practice.

Before the discontinuation of the short-cross issues in 1247, the condition of the coinage had long been a scandal. Clipping had become so prevalent during the preceding years that in 1247 the king was obliged to direct his treasurer to make payments in the best money he had at hand, that being the least clipped of the coins in the treasury.⁷ The annalist at Waverly reported that only twenty pennies out of twenty marks (3200 pennies!) remained untouched by the clippers.⁸ While this account may be exaggerated, it is for certain that when an average pound of pennies was weighed against pure silver, the coins showed a loss of ten pennyweight, four more than the six allowed for normal wear and tear in a good currency.⁹

Some of the contemporary chronicles, such as the *Flores Historiarum* and the works of Matthew Paris, comment on the miserable state of the coinage.¹⁰ Henry III himself was aware that some action needed to be taken. In 1247 he had issued a mandate to the royal custodian of the Jews instructing him to give fair warning to those of his wards who were engaged in clipping the coin.¹¹ An additional order had the barons of the exchequer make inquiry into the malpractices of clippers, forgers, and illegal exchangers of the royal coinage and to have any offenders brought to London for trial.¹² All the bailiffs were ordered to seize clipped money found in their bailiwicks and to forbid its circulation.¹³

Nevertheless, the king's measures proved inadequate, and the coinage saw no improvement as flagrant clipping and illegal exchange of clipped and false money persisted. It took a measure that was international in scope to bring about

7. *Ibid.*, p. 107; F. M. Powicke, *King Henry III and the Lord Edward*, 2 volumes (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1947), vol. I, p. 316.

8. *Annales de Waverleia*, in *Annales Monastici*, R. S. 36, vol. II., p. 339.

9. FitzNeale, *loc.cit.*; Powicke, *loc.cit.*

10. *Flores Historiarum*, R.S. 95, v. II., pp. 341, 349; Matthew Paris, *Abbreviato Chronicorum Angliae*, R.S. 44, 3. III., p. 301; Paris, *Chronica Majora*, R.S. 57, v., V., 637-638; Paris, *Historia Anglorum*, R.S. v. III., p. 27.

11. *Close Rolls: Henry III*, P.R.O., v. V., p. 433; Paris, *Chronica Majora*, R.S. 57, v. V., p. 608, agrees that there was some connection between the Jews and coin clipping.

12. Powicke, *op.cit.*, p. 320.

13. *Close Rolls: Henry III*, P.R.O., v. VI., p. 102.

ANCIENT GREEK SILVER COINS

MAGNA GRAECIA

1. **METAPONTUM**, Lucania, 550-500 B.C. Archaic Stater. Ear of barley, META r. Rv. Ear of barley incuse. 8.13 grams. Very Fine.....\$155.00
2. **POSEIDONIA**, 470-400 B.C. Poseidon advancing r., wearing chlamys and striking with trident r.; dolphin l. Rv. Bull standing l.; dolphin in exergue. BMC 40. 7.798 grams. Fine/Very Fine.\$75.00
3. **SYBARIS**, abt. 560 B.C. Archaic Stater. Bull standing l., looking back; YM above. Rv. Bull incuse. BMC 5; Pozzi 217. 7.02 grams. Fine/Very Fine.\$75.00
4. **TERINA**, 420-400 B.C. Stater. Head of nymph l. Rv. Nike seated l., caduceus. Regling 49. 6.62 grams. Very Fine.\$225.00

SICILY

5. **GELA**, before 466 B.C. Didrachm. Naked horseman galloping r. Rv. Forepart of man-headed bull. 8.48 grams. Very Fine.\$70.00
6. **MESSANA**, 461-396 B.C. Tetradrachm. Biga of mules r., driven by female charioteer; flying Nike crowning mules; two dolphins meeting in exergue. Rv. Hare running r.; dolphin below. 16.82 grams. Choice Very Fine.\$225.00
7. **SYRACUSE**. King Agathokles. 310-306 B.C. Tetradrachm. Head of Persephone, with flowing hair r. Rv. Nike erecting trophy; monogram AN l., triskeles r. 16.9 grams. BMC 388. Very Fine, choice....\$275.00

GREEK MAINLAND AND ISLANDS

8. **Alexander the Great**, 336-323 B.C. Dated tetradrachm of Ake, Class II, year 23. Newell 19. Rare, Very Fine.\$65.00
9. **Philip III**, 323-316 B.C. Obol. Head of Alexander in lion's skin. Rv. Zeus seated. 0.82 grams. Rare. E.F./V.F.\$25.00
10. **THRACE**. King Lysimachus, 323-281 B.C. Tetradrachm. Head of Alexander the Great, with horn of Ammon. Rv. Athena seated l.; symbols head of Tyche l., monogram PG and bow in exergue. Not in Mueller. Very Fine.\$110.00
11. Tetradrachm. Late issues of Byzantium, symbol trident between two dolphins. M. 199. Unusual fine style. Broad slightly defected flan. E.F./V.F.\$75.00
12. **THASOS**, ca. 146 B.C. Tetradrachm. Head of young Dionysos, with ivy-wreath. Rv. Heracles striding. BMC 74. Fine style, not a Barbaric imitation. *Coins of Bible Days*, p.40. Choice Very Fine...\$110.00



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a correct reform of the English coinage. In 1247 King Louis IX of France forbade the circulation of sterling coinage within his dominions on the grounds that it was too corrupted by clipping to pass current.¹⁴

The action taken by Louis IX caused immediate alarm in England, and Henry took the necessary steps to have the subject of reforming the coinage made one of the primary concerns of the meeting of the *magnum concilium* at Oxford in 1247. The council recommended, however, that the standard, rather than the form, of the coinage be changed. As an example, the council used the more basely composed currency of France, stating that it was less subject to clipping because it had a lower intrinsic value than the English coinage. There was indeed some logic in the council's thinking and proposals, but Henry wanted to protect the high standard of the English coin and the good reputation it had received for having it. Backed by the officers of the exchange and coinage and commercial experts from London, Henry's proposals to alter the design of the coinage were approved by the council.¹⁵

The new design was determined mainly by the desire to end the abuse of clipping. It was calculated that if the coin gave clear enough evidence to the outrages it had undergone, less clipped money would be able to circulate and the practice would cease.¹⁶ The cross on the reverse of the coin, which had previously occupied only the space within the circular legend, was extended to the edges of the coin. If any one of the four ends of the cross on the "long-cross" penny was not visible, the coin was declared illegal and was not permitted to circulate. Severe penalties were in order for any person convicted of clipping the new coinage or any of the connected vices.

Many of the contemporary chroniclers were impressed by the events connected with the change in the coinage: Matthew Paris is of singular importance in this respect. In the *Historia Anglorum* Paris devotes a subtitle to "the clipping of money and its renovation." He discusses the abominable condition of the coinage and gives a description of the new coinage that was struck from a "distinct die . . . that would leave the

14. Paris, *loc.cit.*; Powicke, *op.cit.*, pp. 316, 318.

15. Brook, *op.cit.*, p. 107; Powicke, *op.cit.*, p. 318.

16. Brook, *loc.cit.*; H. B. Earle Fox and J. S. Shirley-Fox, "A Numismatic History of the Reigns of Edward I, II, and III", in *The British Numismatic Journal*, v. VI. (1909), p. 199.

17. Paris, *Historia Anglorum*, v. III., pp. 27-28. 18. Paris.

18. *Abbreviato Chronicorum Angliae*, v. III., pp. 301, 316; Paris, *Chronica Majora*, v. V., pp. 15-16, 637-638.

coinage intact." In addition Paris drew a diagram of the new reverse design in the gloss of his manuscript. Accompanying the drawing is the notation that the design of the obverse remained as before.¹⁷ Paris' other works contain less extensive comments on the new coinage, but there are rude drawings that illustrate how the arms of the cross were extended to the edge of the coin.¹⁸ In his compilation, made in 1250, of memorable events of the preceding half century, he writes that "through corrupt clipping the coinage was changed."¹⁹

Other references to the *mutatio monetae* occur in the Close Rolls, the *Flores Historiarum*, Bartholomew Cotton's *Historia Anglicana*, John Capgrave's *Chronicle of England*, and in the majority of the works included in the *Annales Monastici*.²⁰ The annalist at Bury St. Edmunds, one of the three mints originally authorized to strike the new issue (the other two were London and Canterbury), writes:

"There was an alteration in the coinage in England and King Henry granted a newly cut die to Bury St. Edmunds. The new die was to be used freely with the right of exchange, just as the king himself used his dies."²¹

An entry in the Close Rolls confirms the minting privileges of Bury, "the coinage there to be as in London."²²

On 24 February 1248, while the king was at Waltham, he ordered twelve citizens and twelve goldsmiths of London to consult with the barons as to the improvement of the coinage. This particular group met at Westminster and other groups were ordered to meet elsewhere.²³ As a result, the new coinage was found to be quite satisfactory; additional mints were subsequently opened in order to supply the demand for the new coin. The meeting at Westminster (2 March 1238) may be regarded as the prototype of later "Trials of the Pyx," official assays of the current coin.²⁴

19. Paris, *Abbreviato Chronicorum Angliae*, v. III., p. 316.

20. *Close Rolls: Henry III*, v. VI., p. 101; *Flores Historiarum*, v. III., p. 242; Bartholomew Cotton, *Historia Anglicana*, R.S. 16 p. 126; John Capgrave, *Chronicle of England*, R.S. 1, p. 155; *Annales Monastici*, R.S. 36, v. I., pp. 45, 137, 285, v. II., pp. 91, 339, v. III., 175, v. IV., 96, 97, 438.

21. *Chronicle of Bury St. Edmunds*, ed. and trans. Antonia Gransden (London: Nelson, 1964), p. 14.

22. *Close Rolls: Henry III*, *loc.cit.*

23. *Close Rolls: Henry III*, v. VI., p. 107.

24. Charles Oman, *The Coinage of England* (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1931), p. 148. See also the appendix to John of Oxenides *Chronicle* in the Rolls Series.

(to be continued)

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A HOARD OF VENETIAN SILVER COINS — PART 1

BRUCE B. BRAUN AND RAYMOND HUCKLES

A small parcel of Venetian silver coins was purchased from a Lebanese merchant in January of 1964.

The hoard, believed to be intact by the seller, was discovered near Beirut* in the latter part of 1963.

Totaling 64 coins, the lot consisted entirely of Venetian silver pieces of the type often referred to as "grosso," all bearing the obverse design of the Doge and St. Mark and reverse type of Christ enthroned.

The majority of coins were in an excellent state of preservation and those struck during the 1311 - 1354 A.D. period were virtually in mint condition.

Coin number 21 (See enlargement on p. 336) was as struck, measuring 21 millimeters in diameter and weighing 2.8 grams.

Although in fine condition, the 26 pieces struck in the name of Antonio Venier show more wear than those of the earlier period.

The 12 coins of Doge Francesco Foscari are of wretched workmanship but had little actual circulation wear.

During the latter's rule, this hoard may have left Venice and traveled the trade routes to the Middle-East.

A probable burial date of 1425 - 1457 A.D. might be assigned to this interesting little hoard of the famous Venetian merchant princes.

*The site of the ancient city of Berytus.

TABLE OF COINS IN HOARD

DOGE	REIGN	NO. OF COINS
Enrico Dandolo	1192 - 1205	1
Lorenzo Tiepolo	1268 - 1278	1
Giovanni Dandolo	1280 - 1289	2
Giovanni Scranzo	1311 - 1327	3
Francesco Dandolo	1328 - 1339	6
Bartolomeo Gradenigo	1339 - 1342	5
Andrea Dandolo	1344 - 1354	3
Andrea Contarini	1367 - 1382	4
Antonio Venier	1382 - 1400	26
Michele Steno	1400 - 1413	1
Francesco Foscari	1423 - 1457	12
11 Different Doges	Span of 266 years	64 coins

CATALOG OF COINS
ENRICO DANDOLO
1192 - 1205 AD

1. **Obv:** + .H. DANDOL • S. M. VENETI.
 Pl. II Full length facing figures of Doge and St. Mark
 holding Staff with Pennant between them.
 In Field: D
 V
 X
Rev: Enthroned facing figure of Christ.
 In Field: IC • XC

LORENZO TIEPOLO
1268 - 1278 AD

2. **Obv:** .LA. TEVPL • S. M. VENET.
 Pl. II Similar to No. 1
Rev: Similar to No. 1

GIOVANNI DANDOLO
1280 - 1289 AD

3. **Obv:** .10. DANDVL • S. M. VENETI
 Similar to No. 1
Rev: Similar to No. 1
 4. **Obv:** Similar to No. 3
 Pl. II
Rev: Similar to No. 3
 Near right leg: O

GIOVANNI SORANZO
1311 - 1327 AD

5. **Obv:** 10. SVPANTIO • S. M. VENETI.
 Pl. II Similar to No. 1
Rev: Similar to No. 1
 6. **Obv:** Similar to No. 5
Rev: Similar to No. 5
 Near left elbow: O
 7. **Obv:** Similar to No. 5
Rev: Similar to No. 5
 Near right leg: O

FRANCESCO DANDOLO
1328 - 1339 AD

8. **Obv:** FRA. DANDVLO • S. M. VENETI
 Pl. II Similar to No. 1
Rev: Similar to No. 1
 9. Similar to No. 8
 10-13. Similar to No. 8

BARTOLOMEO GRADENIGO
1339 - 1342 AD

14. **Obv:** BA. GRADONICO • S. M. VENETI
 Pl. II Similar to No. 1
Rev: Similar to No. 1



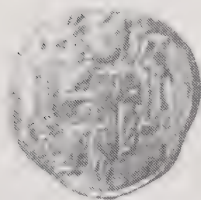
1



2



4



5



8



14



5



8



16



5



8



16



17



21



16

15. Similar to No. 14

16. **Obv:** BA. GRADOMICO • S. M. VENETI

Pl. II Similar to No. 1

Rev: Similar to No. 1

17. Similar to No. 16

Pl. II

18. Similar to No. 16

ANDREA DANDOLO

1344 - 1354 AD

19. **Obv:** ANDR. DANDVLO • S. M. VENETI.
Similar to No. 1
Rev: Similar to No. 1
20. Similar to No. 19
21. **Obv:** Similar to No. 19
Pl. II
Rev: Similar to No. 19
No arms on chair.



ANDREA CONTARINI

1367 - 1382 AD

22. **Obv.** ANDR. QTARENO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. III Full length figures of Doge facing to right, St. Mark facing front, holding Staff with Pennant between them.
In Field: D
V
X
- Rev:** Enthroned facing figure of Christ
In Field: IC • XC
* • F
- 23-25 Similar to No. 22

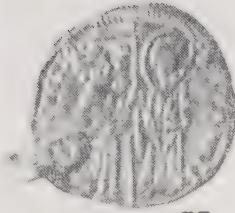
ANTONIO VENIER

1382 - 1400 AD

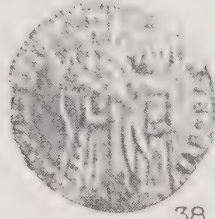
26. **Obv:** ANTO. VENERIO • S. M. VENETI
Similar to No. 22
- Rev:** Similar to No. 22
In Field: IC • XC
* • C



22



33



38



37



40



51



41



56



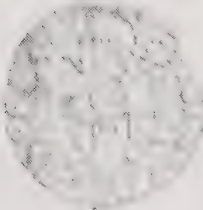
62



52



60



27. **Obv:** Similar to No. 26
Rev: Similar to No. 26
In Field: IC • XC
 * • D

28. Similar to No. 27

29. **Obv:** Similar to No. 26
Rev: Similar to No. 26
 In Field: IC • XC
 * • F
- 30-32. Similar to No. 29.
33. Similar to No. 29. With Loop.
 Pl. III
34. **Obv:** Similar to No. 26
Rev: Similar to No. 26
 In Field: IC • XC
 * • P
35. Similar to No. 34
36. **Obv:** Similar to No. 26
Rev: Similar to No. 26
 In Field: IC • XC
 * • R
37. **Obv:** ANTO. VENRIO • S. M. VENETI.
 Pl. III Similar to No. 26
Rev: Similar to No. 36
38. **Obv:** Similar to No. 26
 Pl. III
Rev: Similar to No. 26
 In Field: IC • XC
 * • O?
39. Similar to No. 38
40. **Obv:** ANTO. VENERIO • S. M. VENETI.
 Pl. III Full length figures of Doge facing to right, St.
 Mark facing front holding Staff with Pennant
 between them.
 In Field: D
 V
 X
 * • *
- Rev:** †. TIBI. LAVS. 3. GLORIA.
 Enthroned facing figure of Christ.
41. Similar to No. 40
 Pl. III
- 42-50. Similar to No. 40
51. Similar to No. 40.
 Pl. III

Reverse has 3/4 turn double-strike.

MICHELE STENO

1400 - 1413 AD

52. **Obv:** MICHAEL STENO • S. M. VENETI.
 Pl. III Similar to No. 40
Rev: Similar to No. 40

FRANCESCO FOSCARI

1423-1457 AD

53. **Obv:** FRA. FOSCARI • S. M. VENETI.

- Similar to No. 40
In Field: D
V
X
M • P
- Rev: Similar to No. 40
54. Obv: Similar to No. 53
In Field: D
V
X
N • B
- Rev: Similar to No. 40
Enthroned facing figure of Christ with right
hand extended to left in blessing.
55. Obv: Similar to No. 53
In Field: D
V
X
R • B
- Rev: Similar to No. 40
56. Obv: Similar to No. 53
Pl. III In Field: D
V
X
R • P
- Rev: Similar to No. 40
57-58 Similar to No. 56
59. Obv: Similar to No. 53
In Field: D
V
X
R • V
- Rev: Similar to No. 40
60. Obv: FRAC. FOSCARI • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. III Similar to No. 40
In Field: D
V
X
? • B
- Rev: Similar to No. 40
61. Obv: Similar to No. 53
In Field: D
V
X
■
- Rev: Similar to No. 40
62. Obv: Similar to No. 53
Pl. III In Field: D
V
X
m • B

- Rev: Similar to No. 54
 63. Obv: Similar to No. 53
 In Field: D
 V
 X
 •
 Rev: Similar to No. 40
 64. Obv: Similar to No. 53
 In Field: D
 V
 X
 0 • ?

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THE COINAGE OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC — PART IV

by H. MAITLAND

Having discussed the background of the Republican coins and the metals which the Romans used, a discussion of coin types ought to follow. Before going into this, it is important to look briefly at the mints and the coinage officials. We shall discuss the coinage officials in particular since an understanding of the coin types is not possible unless there is some understanding of the coining authority itself.

We must presume that the control of the coinage was vested in the Senate. This presumption is most important when the first century BC is studied numismatically to understand the difference between the "official" coins and those of the "imperial" or extraordinary officials. The actual supervision of coining was placed under the competence of the quaestor.

Very early in Rome's coinage history we find evidence of the *Triumviri aere argento auro flando feriundo*, the III Vir-aaaff, as the responsible officials for the coins. Most historians now accept that the office of *triumvir monetalis* was founded with the inception of coining and always occupied.

The office was collegiate, as were all Roman magistracies, and was held by patricians, men of senatorial rank with consular antecedents, and was a definite step in the *Cursus Honorum*. The magistracy was annual. Earlier students of Republican coins assumed that the office was not always occupied since it is not possible to discover issues of coins for each year. Historians now feel that the office was always occupied and our difficulty in tracing its continuity is due to the irregular issuance of coins which were emitted only as the situation demanded. The III Virs had duties to perform other than the issuance of coins, such as maintaining the treasury and securing bullion.

Unlike the Greek cities, particularly Athens where on the new style tetradrachms we are given a host of names of coinage officials, which are not otherwise known, the Roman coiners are traceable later in history. The responsibility for coinage in Athens must have been a liturgy while at Rome it was a responsibility of a duly authorized magistrate.

Our best method of dating Roman Republican coins comes when we can trace the career of an official through the literary sources back to the point where he was one of the

three coinage officials.

This emphasis on the coinage officials, the *triumviri monetales*, is important. These men were men of importance, men who would soon rise through the career ranks to ultimately hold the consulship and take a seat in the Senate. Thus we find names of families such as the Scipios, the Metelli, the Cornelii, etc. as coinage officials. Many of the types of the Roman coins reflect the history or mythology of these families - a reflection that once led some numismatists to mistakenly wonder if perhaps Roman coins were not altogether "family" coins rather than official issues of the state.

To summarize then. The right to coin was vested in the Senate which in turn placed the actual operation of the mint under the authority of the Quaestor. The actual supervision of the mint and the issuance of coins was vested in three men each year who bore the title of *Triumviri monetales* and who were directly responsible to the Quaestor. Not all of the three colleagues would mint in their year in office unless the demands of the economy so dictated. We thus find years in which no coins were issued, years in which only one or perhaps two of the colleagues issued coins, and of course, years in which we have recorded issues of all three of the triumvirs.

The subject of mints and branch minting is most moot. Mattingly feels that at the outset of coinage, at least four major groups can be identified which in his opinion emanate from four different mint locations, one of which is Rome herself. He feels further that by the time of the second Punic War, Rome closed extra-Roman mints and produced all the coins she required.

Whether Rome, after she closed the mints outside of the city which seems fairly well established as having been done at the close of the 2nd Punic War, made use of branch mints using identical dies to the Capital is not easy to prove. All issues then must be assumed to emanate from the Roman mint itself.

There can be no doubt that the extraordinary magistrates of the first century used extra-Roman mints. These coins do not vary particularly from the Roman coins as to style or fabric, and we know, for example, that when Caesar issued coins in Gaul, he must have done so from a non-Roman mint. This fact alone, while indicative of possible branch minting, does not prove it.

We will turn now in our next section to a discussion of the types used on Roman Republican coins.

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If you did not receive the listing for auction #19 and wish to be on the mailing list, please send a postal card to the auctioneer.

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The Agora and the Forum

In Athens men met in the Agora and in Rome, affairs of business and state were debated in the Forum. So "Voice of the Turtle" asks that members write us their views. These will be published for open consideration and discussion.

I cannot let Mr. Ames' notes in *Coin Topics* for July, 1966 pass without a comment about rushing into print before verifying one's information. This practise is most dangerous not from the standpoint of the reputation of the author, but rather from the incalculable ramifications resulting from the readers' belief that anything in print is truth. A half-truth is often worse. An example of this is the statement noted by Mr. Ames from B. Max Mehl's 1940 catalog that milled shillings and sixpence of Elizabeth are noted by the five point star at the end of the legend. To begin with, in virtually all cases, the privy mark is at the start of the legend, not the end. Even the name of the mark indicates this — "Initial Mark." These marks are generally heraldic in nature, and a five pointed "star" is a mullet. A heraldic star has six points. The fact is that Elizabeth's milled regular issues did have the initial mark star. (six points) as well as initial mark "lis," and initial mark "castle over lis". One could get the impression that the only denominations issued as milled coins were shillings and sixpence. Actually there were seven other denominations made by machines. I regret that I do not have a copy of Mr. Mehl's catalog to examine.

The preceding, while admittedly nit-picking, services to illustrate that the "half-truth" is sometimes worse than keeping quiet. I would add that a few extremely rare patterns did use a mullet for an initial mark.

Mr. Ames' statement that, "An examination of Elizabeth shillings reveals that milled coins were produced in 1564." leaves me wondering just what his methods of examination were. No shilling of Elizabeth was dated, and this includes hammered, milled regular issue, and milled patterns. The only method of dating these coins (beyond stylistic and epigraphical means, which are hardly precise) is the initial mark. The only marks used on milled shillings were mullet and star. The former was used only in 1560, and the latter from 1560 to early 1567. How now, 1564?

Many have fallen into the trap of assuming that Elizabeth's sixpence are really shillings because the flans are even broader than the present-day shilling. Her sixpence are nearly all dated.

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and it is true that milled sixpence were issued in 1564, among other years.

Mr. Ames states further that, "It does not have to be concluded that milling was impractical in its initial stages since the treasures brought into England by the freebooters enabled the government to suspend taxes for fifteen years. Coinage needs may also have declined." I do not feel that one is justified in relating production or adoption of milled coins to pirate booty. The fact is that in November and December 1570 Elizabeth was reduced to borrowing money from her own subjects at 6% interest.

It is not known definitely why Eloye Mestrell's milled coinage was not adopted, but the popular supposition is that the workmen of the mint were jealous and emphasized the low and therefore costly output. On the other hand, a manuscript exists where Sir Richard Martyn, warden, states that upon repeated trials, the machine for coining invented by Eloye Mestrell had been found defective. It should also be noted that the popular belief that Eloye was later hung for counterfeiting may be erroneous as Cooper's *Chronicle* states that Phillippe Mestrell (and others) were hung on the 17th of January 1568 after incarceration in Newgate. He was then quartered. The difference in given names is enough to categorically deny a tragic end to Eloye.

When pirate treasure is brought into the land, coinage demands go up, not down. We have later instances supporting this: Anne's VIGO coins and George II's LIMA pieces, both of which indicate high mint output.

It is true that, "By the middle of the seventeenth century, milling had largely replaced hammering as a means of striking coins," but not in England. It was not until 1662 that England finally, after several false starts, introduced machine-made coins for good. In defence of Mr. Reinfeld, in the revised edition of his book, *The World's Most Popular Coins*, the correct date of 1662 for the introduction of milled coinage is noted.

While Elizabeth's milled coinage did come in the early portion of her reign, it should be remembered that the hammered coins were in production before during and after this abortive issue of milled coinage. It would be improper to select the shilling as the first dated and milled coins as the other denominations were also issued during this period. Also, the shillings were *not* dated. As the invention of minting machinery (and Mr. Mestrell) were imported from France, I cannot grant these shillings a place in numismatic history as the first

milled coins. This must go to another country, and while France erected such a machine in July 1553 to strike testoons and demi-testoons, I cannot say that France was first, either.

In closing, I wish to state that this letter is meant only to clarify certain statements and to caution both writers and readers alike, to exercise care in wording statements in such a manner as to lend the impression of fact to a conjecture, and not to believe that the printed word is infallible.

DAVID H. HESS

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By D. F. JOHNSON

Details regarding the Royal Numismatic Society of England appeared in the *Turtle*, Vol. IV, No. 9, Sept. 1965. For benefit of members not having this issue it is resumed here. When the next issue of the *Chronicle* appears, this information will be repeated in detail along with reviews of the articles appearing therein.

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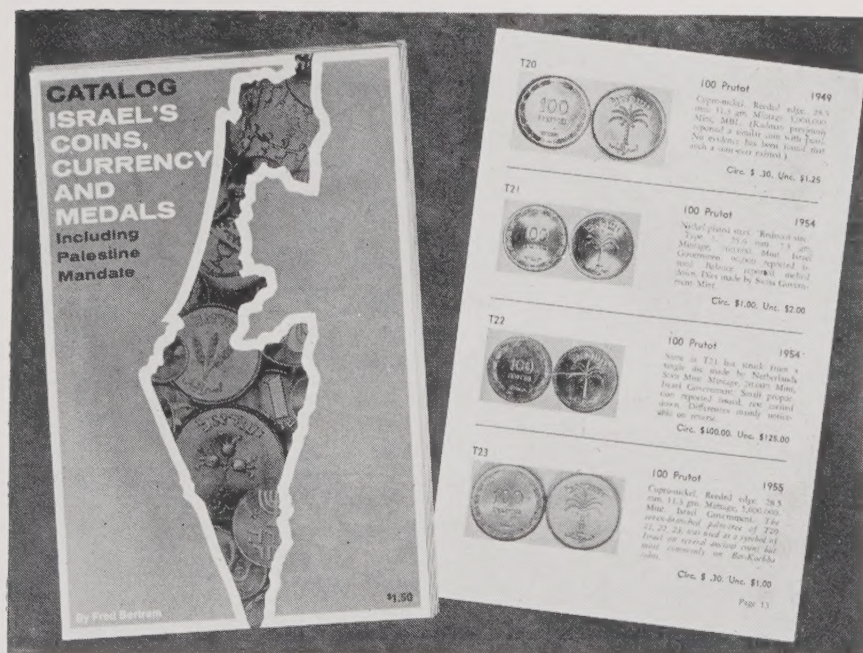
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